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CONTENTS

EDITORIAL i

THIRD H.A.A. SYMPOSIUM ON AFRICAN HERPETOLOGY ii

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INDEX TO THE JOURNAL OF THE HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA - NO. 1 (1965) to NO. 39 (1991)
R.M. Douglas 1

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE AFRICAN AMPHIBIAN WORKING GROUP 47

SECOND WORLD CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY 48

HERP-INFO 50

FROM THE PRESS 55

HERPETOLOGICAL BOOKS 56

RECENT BOOKS ON HUSBANDRY AND CAPTIVE CARE: Part 2
W.R. Branch 61

NEW SOCIETIES 67

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO MEMBERS OF THE H.A.A. 68

OVERSEAS MEMBERS: AIR MAIL POSTAGE 70

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AFRICAN HERP NEWS

HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

NEWSLETTER



FEATURING:

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INDEX TO THE JOURNAL OF THE H.A.A.
NO. 1 (1965) to NO. 39 (1991)

by

R.M. Douglas

JUNE 1992 NO. 17

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EDITORIAL

This issue of *African Herp News* features Rod Douglas' *Bibliographic index to the journal of the H.A.A. (no. 1 to 39).* I am sure that members will find it of great historical interest and of much assistance when doing research. An extra 100 copies of this issue have been produced, and copies are available from the Secretary/Treasurer at R10.00 or $10.00 each, postage included.

I am pleased to say that arrangements for the 1993 H.A.A. Symposium are proceeding rather well, and a venue and provisional dates are now available (see page ii).

Included with this newsletter is a voting form for the election of a new H.A.A. committee. I trust that all African members will take an interest in the election and return their ballots timeously.

The next issue of *African Herp News*, due out towards the end of the year, will include, amongst others, the following articles: **V-box Containment: a reliable method for tubing venomous snakes** by Terry Dillon, **Morphometric and stripe pattern differences between Geometric tortoise, *Psammobates geometricus* populations in the south-western Cape Province** by E.H.W. Baard, and **"Dystocia" in snakes** by E.V. Cock.

It has been decided, for financial reasons, to issue only two newsletters for 1992. The next issue will, however, be another bulky one of about 50 pages.

All the best.

Mike Bates
CHAIRMAN/NEWSLETTER EDITOR



THIRD H.A.A. SYMPOSIUM ON AFRICAN HERPETOLOGY

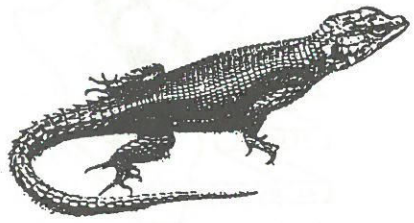
PROVISIONAL DATES: 12 - 16 OCTOBER 1993

PROVISIONAL VENUE: National Zoological Gardens, Pretoria

All H.A.A. members and other interested parties are hereby invited to submit proposals for topics as well as any other suggestions for the forthcoming symposium. During the symposium a FitzSimons Day session will be held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of V.F.M. FitzSimons' memoir, *The Lizards of South Africa*. Papers dealing with the current systematic status of the various southern African lizard families will be presented by local and overseas guest speakers. This symposium promises to be a very worthwhile experience, and as was the case at previous H.A.A. symposia, a wide variety of herpetological topics will be covered.

Proposals and suggestions should be addressed to:

Mr. W.D. Haacke, Transvaal Museum, P.O. Box 413, Pretoria, 0001 South Africa.



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BIBLIOGRAPHIC INDEX TO THE JOURNAL OF THE HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

NO. 1 (1965) to NO. 39 (1991)

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INTRODUCTION

The *Journal of the Herpetological Association of Africa* is the only journal devoted entirely to all aspects of African herpetology. For this reason, the following bibliography should become an important reference source for anyone working in this field. Early articles provide an interesting account of collecting trips conducted at the time, as well as a progressive history of African herpetology. Numerous important taxonomic papers have appeared in the journal, and with the commencement and publication of symposium proceedings, an update of herpetological research is also now being recorded. Aspects such as diet, reproduction, distribution, husbandry and snake bite have not been ignored either, with valuable contributions on these subjects being largely due to the 'Short Notes' section, which commenced in Journal #32.. This bibliography, along with those bibliographies listed in Appendix 1, probably represent the most comprehensive reference sources on African herpetological literature currently available.

CONTENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INDEX TO THE JOURNAL OF THE HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA
No. 1 (1965) to No. 39 (1991) 3

APPENDIX I
BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON AFRICAN HERPETOLOGY AND RECENT AFRICAN HERPETOLOGICAL LITERATURE 54

APPENDIX II
BOOK REVIEWS 66

APPENDIX III
OBITUARIES 68

ABBREVIATIONS

Abst. = Abstract.
Figs = Figures.
Post. = Poster.
(P.Cor.) = Page numbers in volume index incorrect, but have been corrected in this bibliography.
Revw. = Reviewer.
(Z.S.S.A. Symp. Herp. & Ichthy.) = The proceedings of the *Zoological Society of Southern Africa Symposium on Herpetology and Ichthyology* (which includes amongst others the 11 marked [**] Herpetology papers) held at Skukuza, Kruger National Park, September 1975. Full proceedings were published in *Zoologica Africana* (1976) **11**(2): 1-418.

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BROADLEY, D.G. 1968. The correct spelling of trivial names in zoological nomenculature. **2:** 32-33.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1969. The African house snakes - how many genera? **5:** 6-8.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1969. Maximum length attained by a Boomslang (*Dispholidus typus*). **5:** 8.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1970. Umtali Museum - herpetological projects in hand. **6:** 22-23.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1971. A reassessment of the northern forms currently assigned to the *Cordylus cordylus* group. **7:** 20-22.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1971. The National Museums of Rhodesia expedition to Malawi, November - December 1970. **7:** 24-35.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1971. A field study of the Dwarf chameleon *Rhampholeon marshalli* in the Bunga Forest National Park, Rhodesia: Objectives and methods. **8:** 9-11.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1972. The Wedge snouted amphisbaenians of southern Africa. **9:** 34.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1973. A field study of the Dwarf Chameleon *Rhampholeon marshalli* in the Bunga forest National Park, Rhodesia. 2. First progress report. **10:** 16-17.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1973. Provisional list of vernacular names for Rhodesian reptiles and amphibians. **10:** 17-24.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1973. Current herpetological research projects at Umtali Museum. **11:** 14-15.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1973. Marking/recapture programmes with reptiles and amphibians in Umtali district, Rhodesia. **11:** 7-8.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1974. The Striped swamp snake *Limnophis bicolor* - a new snake for Rhodesia. **12:** 8.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1974. *Typhlina bramina* (Daudin) - a parthenogenetic species of Blind snake. **12:** 24-26.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1974. Ophiophagy in *Bitis arietans* in Zambia. **12:** 30-31.

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BROADLEY, D.G. 1975. Dicephalism in African reptiles. **13:** 8-9.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1975. The Worm snakes (*Leptotyphlops*) of Africa - a taxonomic challenge. **13:** 10-12.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1975. A record Purple-glossed snake - *Amblyodipsas polylepis polylepis* (Bocage) from Rhodesia. **13:** 25-26.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1975. Marking/recapture studies on lizards in Rhodesia. Abst. (Z.S.S.A. Symp. Herp. & Ichthy.) **14:** 11-12.

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BROADLEY, D.G. 1975. An appeal for specimens of *Chirindia* from the Transvaal. **14:** 30-31.

BROADLEY, D.G. 1977. Umtali Museum: Programme of current research projects. **15:** 26-27.

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APPENDIX II

BOOK REVIEWS

NOTE: The information given on books in this Appendix is derived soley from information provided in the review and not from the book itself.

- A -

ADLER, K. (Ed.), APPLEGATE, J. & ALTIG, R. 1989. *Contributions to the history of herpetology*. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 202pp. **Revw. W.D. Haacke. 39:** 53-54.

AUERBACH, R.D. 1985. *The Reptiles of Gaborone*. Botswana Book Centre, Gaborone. 48pp., Figs 7, 16 colour plates. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 35:** 51.

AUFFENBERG, W. 1981. *Behavioral ecology of the Komodo Monitor*. University Press of Florida, Gainsville. 406pp., Figs 93, Tables 73, 8 B & W plates, 10 appendices. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 28:** 26-27.

AUFFENBERG, W. 1988. *Gray's monitor lizard*. University of Florida Press, Gainsville. 419pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 49.

- B -

BALLANSINA, D. 1984. *Amphibians of Europe* (A colour guide). Newton Abbot, England. 132pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 33:** 41.

BANKS, C.B. & MARTIN, A.A. (Eds.). 1980. *Proceedings of the Melbourne Herpetological Symposium held at Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens*. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 26:** 19.

BEEBEE, T.J.C. 1983. *The Natterjack Toad*. Oxford University Press, Cape Towm. xiii + 159pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 31:** 28.

BOHM, W. (Ed.). 1981. *Handbuch der reptillen und amphibien Europas. Band 1 - Echsen*. AULA-Verlaf Gmbh, Weisbaden. 520pp., Figs 91. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 54-55.

BOHM, W. (Ed.). 1984. *Handbuch der reptillen und amphibien Europas. Band 2(1) - Echsen 2 (Lacerta).* AULA-Verlaf Gmbh, Weisbaden. 416pp., Figs 47. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 54-55.

BOHM, W. (Ed.). 1981. *Handbuch der reptillen und amphibien Europas. Band 2(2) - Echsen 3 (Podarcis).* AULA-Verlaf Gmbh, Weisbaden. 434pp., Figs 64. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 54-55.

BRADSHAW, S.D. 1986. *Ecophysiology of Desert Reptiles.* Academic Press, Australia. 324pp. **Revw. S. Els. 35:** 52.

BROADLEY, D.G. & COCK, E.V. 1975. *The Snakes of Rhodesia.* Bundu Series, Longman (Pvt) Ltd., Southern Rhodesia. 152pp., 64 colour plates, Figs 11, Maps 31. **Revw. J. Visser. 14:** 32-33.

BURTON, M.N. & COOPER, K.H. (Eds) 1980. *Studies on the ecology of Maputaland.* Rhodes University and The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, Durban. 560pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 27:** 18.

- C -

CANN, J. 1986. *Snakes Alive! Snake experts and antidote sellers of Australia.* Kangaroo Press. 176pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 35:** 50.

CARRUTHERS, V.C. 1976. *A guide to the identification of the frogs of the Witwatersrand.* Conservation Press, Johannesburg. 78pp., 13 plates. **Revw. J.C. Poynton. 19:** 15-16.

COGGER, H.G., CAMERON, E.E. & COGGER, H.M. 1983. *Zoological Catalogue of Australia. 1. Amphibia and Reptilia.* iv + 313pp. Australian Government Print., Canberra. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 33:** 40.

COOPER, J.E. & JACKSON, O.F. 1981. *Diseases of Reptiles.* Vol. 1, xii + 383pp., + xxxii. Vol. 2, xi + 387-584pp., + xxxii, + index Vol. 1 and 2. Academic Press, London. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 32:** 40.

- E -

ERNST, C.H. & BARBOUR, R.W. 1989. *Turtles of the world.* Smithsonian Institution Press. 313pp. [Some important comments by the reviewer]. **Revw D.G. Broadley. 39:** 50-52.

ESTES, R. & PREGILL, G. (Eds.). 1988. *Phylogenetic relationships of the lizard families.* Stanford University Press, Stanford California. xiv + 631pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 46-47.

- F -

FRYE, F.L. 1973. *Husbandry, medicine and surgery in captive reptiles.* V. M. Publishing Co., Brenner Springs, Kansas. 140pp. **Revw. E.V. Cock. 15:** 40-41.

- G -

GANS, C. & DAWSON, W.R. 1976. *Biology of the Reptilia. Vol. 5, Physiology. A.* Acedemic Press, London. 556pp. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 15:** 41-42.

GANS, C. & PARSONS, T.S. (Eds.) 1981. *Biology of the Reptilia. Vol. 11, Morphology. F.* Academic Press, London. xi + 475pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 32:** 40.

GANS, C., BILLET, F. & MADDERSON, P. (Eds.) 1985. *Biology of the Reptilia. Vol. 14, Development. B.* Wiley & Sons, New York. 763pp. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 33:** 40.

GANS, C., BILLET, F. & MADDERSON, P. (Eds.) 1985. *Biology of the Reptilia. Vol. 15, Development. B.* Wiley & Sons, New York. 731pp. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 33:** 40.

GANS, C. & HUEY, R.B. (Eds.) 1988. *Biology of the Reptillia. Vol. 16, Ecology B. Defence and Life History.* Allan R. Liss Inc. New York. xi + 672pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 47-48.

GANS, C. & HUEY, R.B. (Eds.) 1988. *Biology of the Reptilia. Vol. 16, Ecology B. Defence and Life History.* Allan R. Liss Inc. New York. xi + 672pp. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 39:** 48.

GIBBONS, W. 1983. *Their blood runs cold. Adventures with reptiles and amphibians.* University of Alabama Press. xiii + 164pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 31:** 27.

GIBBONS, J.W. 1990. *Life History and ecology of the Slider turtle.* Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C. xiv + 368pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 52-53.

GOLAY, P. 1985. *Checklist and keys to the terrestrial Proteroglyphs of the world.* Special Publication 'Elapsoidea' Foundation Culturelle, Geneve. i-v + 91pp., Figs 4. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 32:** 39.

GRAY, R.L. 1985. *Captive propagation and husbandry of reptiles and amphibians.* Northern California Herpetological Society. vii + 165pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 35:** 52.

GRIGG, G., SHINE, R. & EHMANN, H. (Eds.). 1986. *Biology of Australian frogs and reptiles.* Surrey Beatty & Sons Pty. Ltd. and the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, S.B.& Sons, Chipping Norton. xvi + 527pp., 12 colour plates, numerous Figs. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 55.

HAIRSTON, N.G. 1987. *Community ecology and salamander guilds.* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. x + 230pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 53.

- H -

HALLIDAY, T. & ADLER, K. 1986. *The encyclopaedia of reptiles and amphibians.* Unwin Animal Library, George Allen and Unwin, London. xvi + 143pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 35:** 51-52.

HARLESS, M. & MORLOCK, H. (Eds.) 1979. *Turtles: Perspectives and research.* Robert E. Krieger Publishing Co., Melbourne, Florida. xiv + 695pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 49-50.

HEATWOLE, H.F. & TAYLOR J. 1987. *Ecology of reptiles.* Surrey Beatty & Sons Pty. Ltd., Aust. xviii + 325pp., 4 colour plates, Figs 48. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 48-49.

- I -

ISEMONGER, R.M. 1982. *Snakes of Africa.* Books of Africa (Pty) Ltd., Cape Town. 284pp. **Revw. W.D. Haacke. 28:** 28-30.

- K -

KETTLE, R. & BOSWELL, J. 1981. A discography of amphibian sounds. British Institute of Recorded Sound, London. [Mention of a list reprinted from *Recorded Sound*, which also includes amphibian sounds]. 51-57pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 25:** 11.

- L -

LONGMORE, R. (Ed.). 1986. *Atlas of elapid snakes of Australia.* Australian Flora and Fauna Series. No. 7, Australian Government Printing Services, Canberra. v + 115pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 56.

- P -

PASSMORE, N.I. & CARRUTHERS, V.C. 1979. *South African Frogs.* Witwatersrand University Press, Johannesburg. 270pp. + record. **Revw. A. Channing. 22:** 8-9.

PATTERSON, R. 1987. *Reptiles of Southern Africa.* Struik Publishers. 128pp., 232 colour photographs. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 35:** 49-50.

PHELPS, T. 1981. *Poisonous snakes.* Blanford Press, Poole, Dorset. 256pp., 16 colour plates, 71 B & W. photographs with illustrations. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 26:** 18-19.

PIENAAR, U. DE V., PASSMORE, N.I. & CARRUTHERS, V.C. 1976. *The Frogs of the Kruger National Park.* National Parks Board of Trustees of the Republic of South Africa. 91pp. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 15:** 40.

PITMAN, C.R.S. 1974. *A Guide to the snakes of Uganda.* Wheldon & Wesley, Codicote, Hertfordshire. 290pp., 29 colour plates, 3 B & W plates, Maps. 2. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 13:** 22-25.

POOLEY, A.C. 1982. *Discoveries of a crocodile man.* Williams Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., London, Johannesburg. 213pp., Maps. 2, numerous photographs. **Revw. W.D. Haacke. 28:** 28-29.

- R -

ROUX-ESTÉVE, R. 1974. Revision systematique des Typhlopidae d'Afrique. Reptilias: Serpentes. *Memoires du Museum National d'Histoire Naurella, Nouvelle Serie A, Zoologie*. **87:** 313pp. [An important work and review for any researcher in this field] **Revw. D.E. Hahn. 15:** 34-39.

RYAN, M.J. 1985. *The Tungara frog. A study in sexual selection and communication.* University of Chicago Press. 225pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 33:** 42.

- S -

SANDERS, O. 1987. *Evolutionary hybridization and speciation in North American indigenous bufonids.* Strecker Museum Publications, Baylor University, Waco, Texas. vii + 110pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 46.

SPAWLS, S. 1979. *Sun, sand and snakes.* Collins Harvill Press, London. 254pp., 8 colour plates. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 23:** 9.

SPELLERBERG, I.F. 1982. *Biology of Reptiles: An ecological approach.* Blackie & Sons Ltd., Glascow and London. viiii + 158pp., 44 line drawings, Tables 10. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 28:** 27-28.

SPELLERBERG, I.F. 1982. *Biology of Reptiles.* Blackie & Sons Ltd., Glascow and London. 158pp. **Revw. J.H. Van Wyk. 33:** 42.

STEWART, M.M. 1967. *Amphibians of Malawi.* ix + 163pp., 20 colour plates, Figs 67. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 4:** 45.

SUTHERLAND, S.K. 1981. *Venomous creatures cf Australia.* Oxford University Press, Melbourne. 128pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 29:** 21.

- T -

TYLER, M.J. (Ed.) *The Gastric brooding frog.* Croom Helm Ltd., London. 163pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 31:** 27.

- V -

VISSER, J.D. 1966. *The Poisonous Snakes of Southern Africa and the treatment of snakebite.* Howard Timmis, Cape Town. 60pp., 60 colour illus., Figs 5. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 2:** 38-39.

VISSER, J.D. & CHAPMAN, D.S. 1978. *Snakes and Snakebite.* Purnell & Sons (SA) (Pty) Ltd., Cape Town. 152pp.. **Revw. A. Channing. 17:** 2-3.

- W -

WAGER, V.A. 1986. *Frogs of South Africa: Their fascinating life histories.* Delta Books, Craighall. 183pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 35:** 51.

WEBB, G.J.W., MANOLIS, C.S. & WHITEHEAD, P.J. (Eds.). 1987. *Wildlife management: Crocodiles and alligators.* Surrey Beatty & Sons Pty. Ltd., Chipping Norton, NSW. xiv + 522pp. 10 colour plates, numerous Figs. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 55-56.

WELCH, K.R.G. 1982. *Herpetology of Africa.* (A check list). Robert E. Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, Florida. 293pp. [This detailed review is of considerable importance to African herpetologists and should be used in conjunction with the book. The review corrects numerous errors, explains erroneous taxonomic placings and provides updated information]. **Revw. D.G. Broadley. 29:** 22-31.

WELCH, K.R.G. 1982. *Herpetology of Africa.* (A check list) Robert E. Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, Florida. 293pp. [This review contains further valuable information and comments on points not noted in the review by D.G. Broadley. Yet another important review ono this book]. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 29:** 32-36.

WEVER, E.G. 1987. *The Reptile Ear. Its structure and function.* Princeton Press, New Jersey. i-xii, 1024pp., Figs 868. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 32:** 39.

WILSON, L.D. & MEYER, J.R. 1985. *The snakes of Honduras.* (2nd ed.) Milwaukee Public Museums Publications, Milwaukee. x + 150pp. **Revw. W.R. Branch. 39:** 56.

APPENDIX III

OBITUARIES ON AFRICAN HERPETOLOGISTS

FITZSIMONS, V.F.M. 1901-1975. **14:** 33-35 (1975). **(W.D. Haacke)**

IONIDES, C.J.P. 1900-1968. **15:** 22-24 (1977). **(C.R.S. Pitman)**

LOVERIDGE, A. 1891-1980. **23:** 1 (1980). **(D.G. Broadley)**

MERTENS, R. 1894-1975. **14:** 35-36 (1975). **(W.D. Haacke)**

NEWMAN, A.C. ???-1976. **15:** 42 (1977). **(D.G. Broadley)**

PITMAN, C.R.S. 1889-1975. **14:** 36-38 (1975). **(D.G. Broadley)**

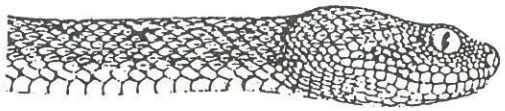
TASMAN, K.R. 1890-1968. **5:** 20-22 (1969). **(C.S.R. Pitman)**

VESEY FITZGERALD, L.D.E.F. 1910-1974. **13:** 27 (1975). **(C.S.R. Pitman)**

LAWRENCE, R.F. 1897-1987. *H.A.A. Newsletter* **12:** 7-8 (1989). **(R.M. Douglas)**

WAGER, V.A. 1904-1989. *African Herp News* **13:** 4(1990). **(F.L. Farquharson)**

HOFFMAN, L.A.C. 1959-1991. *African Herp News* **16:** 19 (1991). **(E.W.H. Baard)**



8th MEETING OF THE AFRICAN AMPHIBIAN WORKING GROUP

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

We hope that all workers in Africa will be able to attend this meeting. Organizers for the 9th meeting will be solicited.

MEETING PLACE

The **eighth meeting of the African Amphibian Working Group will be held at the Waterberg Plateau Park.** This is a small park about 150 km north of Windhoek, the capital of Namibia.

Facilities at the park include a conference centre, restaurant, pub, various types of accommodation, swimming pool, game viewing and nature trails.

There are many interesting frogs in the area. The meeting will be held during the rainy season in January, which should offer many opportunities for fieldwork and collecting. Scientific collecting permits are essential, and may be obtained through M. Griffin, Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism, Private Bag 13306, Windhoek, Namibia. FAX (+27) - 61- 63195.

AIR TRAVEL TO NAMIBIA

Many airlines fly direct from Europe to Windhoek, and there are regular connecting flights from Cape Town and Johannesburg. Travellers from North America can fly direct from New York to Johannesburg. Virgin Airlines may be operating a cheap flight from London to Cape Town. There are also flights from Australia to Johannesburg.

TRANSPORT FROM WINDHOEK AIRPORT TO THE MEETING

The organizers will provide transport between the airport and the Waterberg Park.

ROAD TRAVEL TO NAMIBIA

Tarred roads link South Africa and Namibia. Driving through Botswana during the rainy season is not recommended, unless you have a four-wheel drive.

TENTATIVE DATE

The meeting is tentatively being planned for the second week in January 1994, to take place a day or two after the 2nd World Herpetological Meeting in Australia. Hopefully this will reduce the cost of flying from Europe and North America by taking in two meetings. **The meeting will be held during the first week in January if participants are not attending the meeting in Australia.**

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

If you plan to attend, please notify Alan Channing by September 1992, when the second announcement and more details will be mailed.

Please mail or FAX the following information to Alan Channing: Your name, address, number in your party, are you attending the 2nd World Herp meeting in Australia, will you require transport from the airport, what is a suitable meeting date for you.

Dr A. Channing, Biochemistry Department, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville, 7535, South Africa.
FAX: (+27)-21-959 2266



Second World Congress of Herpetology

29 December 1993 – 6 January 1994

For information please contact:
Michael J. Tyler, Department of Zoology,
University of Adelaide, Box 498,
GPO Adelaide S.A. 5001, Australia.
FAX: 61-8-223-5817

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****

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Asian Rat Snakes (*Elaphe taeniurus freesi*). Very healthy March 1992 hatchlings. Only a few left at R180.00 each. **Rod Douglas, P.O. Box 266, 9300 Bloemfontein. Tel. H (051) 365052; B (051) 479609.**

Black X Yellow Rat Snakes (F2) (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta X E. o. quadrivittata*). Handsome 16 month old young (1991 hatchings), aprox. 70 cm, only R100.00 each. **Rod Douglas, P.O. Box 266, 9300 Bloemfontein. Tel. H (051) 365052; B (051) 479609.**

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Amphibia Zambeziaca In One Volume. *Amphibia Zambeziaca* by J.C. Poynton and D. G. Broadley. This momentous work is now available as a single paperbound volume and comprises *Amphibia Zambeziaca* parts 1-5, which were original published separately in *Annals of the Natal Museum* 1985-1991. Price R80.00, including postage + VAT for South Africa; Overseas postage for overseas customers. Orders to: **The Librarian, Natal Museum, Private Bag 9070, 3200 Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Tel. (0331) 451404.**

English Publication Of Sauria. Herprint International is now publishing an English edition of the traditional German herpetological/herpetoculturist journal *Sauria*. Volume 1 contains 176 pages (4 issues of *Sauria* plus supplement) and includes contributions on *Varanus flavescens*, *Gonocephalus grandis*, *Trachymys decorata*, *Sphenomorphus aquaticus*, *Calloselasma rhodostoma*, *Eublepharis macularius*, plus many colour photographs. Price for South African subscribers only R45.00 per volume. Orders and enquiries for

Sauria (E) to: **Herprint International, P.O. Box 14117, 1623 Bredell, South Africa.**

Books For Sale. The following books are offered for sale.

ARNOLD, E.N., & J.A. BURTON. 1978. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Britain and Europe*. Collins. 272 pp. Over 350 illustrations, more than 250 in colour. Hard cover. Dust jacket slightly torn. R20,00.

BELLAIRS, A. 1969. *The Life of Reptiles*. Vol.1 (1-282 pp) and Vol.2 (283-590 pp). Weidenfeld & Nicholson. A classic work on reptiles. Soft cover. Long out of print. Two Volumes for R120,00.

DITMARS. R.L. 1931. *Snakes of the World*. Macmillan Publishing Co., New York. 207 pp. Over 150 B & W photographs. One of the all time classics. Very good condition, dust cover slightly torn. Hard cover. Out of print. R50,00.

DITMARS, R.L. 1933. *Reptiles of the World*. John Lane The Bodley Head Limited. 321 pp. Long out of print collectors piece. 88 B & W Plates. Cover damaged. R40,00.

FREIBERG, M. 1982. *Snakes of South America*. T.F.H. Publisherss. 189 pp. Hard cover - numerous colour photographs. R40,00.

GOIN, C.J., & O.B. GOIN. 1971. *Introduction to Herpetology*. W.H. Freeman and Co. 353 pp. hard cover. R50,00.

LANWORN, R.A. 1972. *The Book of Reptiles*. Hamlyn. 127 pp. Large format book with several colour and B & W photographs. Hard cover. R30,00.

MACLEAN, G.L. 1985. *Robert's Birds of Southern Africa*. Published by the Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund. 848 pp. Hard cover, the most recent edition of this famous bird book. R25,00.

MEHRTENS, J.M. 1987. *Living Snakes of the World in Colour*. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. New York. 480 pp. Over 540 colour photographs. Hard cover, good condition. R100,00.

MINTON, S.A., & M.R. MINTON. 1969. *Venomous Reptiles*. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 274 pp. Hard cover. Out of print. R45,00.

OBST, F.J., K. RICHTER, & U. JACOB. 1988. *The Completely Illustrated Atlas of Reptiles and Amphibians for the Terrarium*. T.F.H. Publishers. 830 pp. Nearly 2,000 colour illustration. R250,00.

PETERS, J.A. 1964. *Dictionary of Herpetology*. A Brief and Meaningful Definition of Words and Terms Used in Herpetology. Hafner

Publishing Co. 392 pp. Immaculate copy, out of print. Hard Cover. R40,00.

PHELPS, T. 1981. *Poisonous Snakes*. Blandford Press. 237 pp. 33 colour photographs, numerous B & W photographs. Had cover. R25,00.

PITMAN, C.R.S. 1974. *A Guide to the Snakes of Uganda* (Revised Edition). Wheldon & Wesley. 290 pp. This classic book is long out of print. Hard cover. R140,00.

POOLEY, T. 1982. *Discoveries of a Crocodile Man*. Collins. 213 pp. Hard cover. R15,00.

ROSS, R.A., & G. MARZEC. 1984. *The Bacterial Diseases of Reptiles: Their Epidermiology, Control, Diagnosis and Treatment.* Published by the Institute for Herpetological Research. 114 pp. Soft cover - 24 colour photographs. R45,00.

SEIGEL, R.A., J.T. COLLINS, & S.S. NOVAK. 1987. *Snakes: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*. MacMillan. 529 pp. R75,00.

U.S. NAVY 1965. *Poisonous Snakes of the World: A Manual for use by U.S. Amphibious Forces.* Department of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. 212 pp. Hard cover. Long out of pring. R55,00.

WELCH, K.R.G. 1982. *Herpetology of Africa: A Checklist and Bibliography of the Orders Amphisbaenia, Sauria and Serpentes.* Robert E. Krieger Publishing Company. 293 pp. Hard cover. R50,00.

WRIGHT, A.H., & A.A. WRIGHT. 1975. *Handbook of Snakes of the United States and Canada.* Volume 1 (pp. 1-564) and Volume 2 (pp. 565-1105). Long out of print, double volume. Hard cover. Both Volumes R120,00.

WYNNE, R.H. 1981. *Lizards in Captivity.* T.F.H. Publishers. 198 pp. Hard cover, numerous colour photographs, R25,00.

Prices exclude postage. Contact: **Johan Marais, P.O. Box 3, 2867 Buhrmannsdrift. Tel. (0140) 32144/32150/32137/32138.**

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WANTED

Elapid Information. Anyone with information regarding the husbandry of African elapids, particularly *Aspidelaps*, *Dendroaspis* and *Pseudohaje*, please contact: **W. Huges, 420-601 Lakebridge Plaza Drive, Ormond Beach, Florida 3274, U.S.A.**

Female Horned Adder (*Bitis caudalis*) over 30 cm, eating mice. Willing to pay R60.00 (but price could be negotiable). Must be on permit. Contact **Niel Pama, 12 Riverside road, Newlands 7700, South Africa. Tel. 021-643222.**

Gekkonid information. Anyone with information on the genera *Chodrodactylus*, *Holodactylus* and *Hemitheconyx*, please contact: **Terry Gentry, 903 Bradley Court, Mount Laurel, N.J. 08054, U.S.A.**

Amphibian information. Is anyone interested in exchanging information and literature on the captive care of all 17 species of amphibian occurring in Portugal, as well as other European countries? Also interested in exchanging general information on South African amphibians. Please contact: **Noemio Sousa, Apartado 382, 2904 Setubal Codex, Portugal.**

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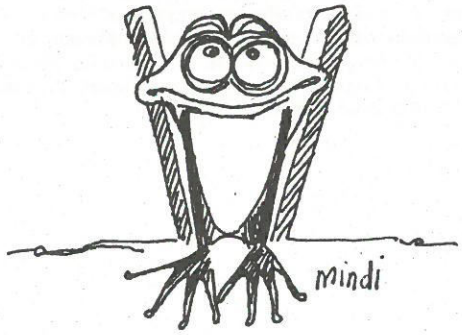


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BIGGEST PREDATOR FOUND

Sunday Times, 24 November 1991, page 17

Sunday Times Reporter: London

Scientists have found the bones of an alligator that lived eight million years ago and which is possibly the biggest flesh-eating animal to walk the earth.
The creature which outgrew Tyrannosaurus Rex, the largest predatory dinosaur, has dethroned it as the world's largest predator.
Scientists said this week that they found the skull of the alligator on the banks of the Amazon River in South America. The creature would have been 2,4 m tall and 12 m long, nearly three times longer than the average car.
Said Professor Carl Frailey, of Kansas: "It lived on rodents that were the size of cattle. Judging by the length of the skull, which was 1,37 m, we estimate its weight at about 12 tons. This would make it about a ton heavier than *Tyrannosaurus rex*, 'the king tyrant lizard' and the mightiest of dinosaur predators, which lived 60-million years earlier."
Professor Frailey added: "This giant animal with its 10 cm teeth preyed on birds, turtles and giant rodents".
He said even larger specimens might have existed. A museum in Brazil had an alligator jawbone 15 cm longer than that of the animal he and his team found.
The Guinness Book of Records said that, in view of the discovery, its entry for "the largest predator" would probably have to be rewritten in time for next year's edition.

DEADLY CHOPSTICKS

Sunday Star, 7 June 1992, page 8

Hong Kong – Local mongooses and frogs have hopefully escaped the chopsticks of gourmets after being classified as endangered species.
Now the Hong Kong newt, cascade frog, Romer's tree frog, water monitor and mongoose cannot be owned or traded without a permit.
Hong Kong gourmets are known for their exotic tastes - from monkey brains to bear paws and lizards.

CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF THE NILE CROCODILE IN SOUTH AFRICA - A HANDBOOK ON CROCODILE FARMING

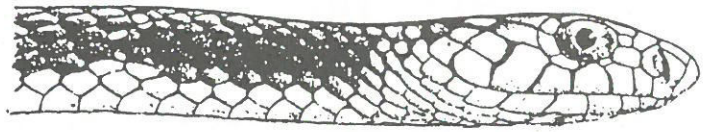
This publication, consisting of close on 200 pages, is presently being printed and will be available within a month.

It contains chapters on CITES listing of the Nile crocodile in South Africa (Dr. P.F.S. Mulder); Control of International Trade in Crocodile Products (Dr. Richard Luxmoore); The Conservation Status of the Nile crocodile in South Africa (Dave Blake and Dr. N. Jacobsen); Crocodiles and the Law in South Africa (Dr. N. Jacobsen & Dave Blake); The Status of Crocodile Farming in the R.S.A. (Johan Marais & Prof. Gerrie Smith); Crocodiles - A tourist attraction (Quinton Coetzee); A Financial Model for Crocodile Farming as an Investment (Prof. L. Brummer); Facilities and Technology for the Commercial Production of *Crocodylus niloticus* (Prof. Gerrie Smith, J. Kuhlmann & Johan Marais); Crocodile Husbandry - The Care of Broodstock, Eggs and Hatchlings (Johan Marais and Prof. Gerrie Smith); Nutrition of *Crocodylus niloticus* (Prof. Gerrie Smith and Dr. R. Coulson); Diseases of Farmed Crocodiles (Dr. Chris Foggin); The Proper Collection of Laboratory Specimens (Dr. Mark Verseput); Skinning Crocodiles for the Skin Trade (Johan Marais and Prof. Gerrie Smith); The Skin Trade - Past, Present and Future (K. van Jaarsveldt); The Marketing of Crocodile Skins - Principles, Strategies and Challenges (Prof. Gerrie Smith and Johan Marais) and an Update on the Literature on Crocodiles and Crocodile Husbandry (Tony Pooley).

The publication is edited by Prof. Gerrie Smith and Johan Marais and is published by the Crocodilian Study Group of Southern Africa.

Order forms for this publication can be obtained by writing to:

Johan Marais
P.O. Box 3
Buhrmannsdrif
2867



In preparation

MEDICAL VALUE OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

by Steve Grenard

Orig. Ed. 1992

ISBN 0-89464-564-1

This book will chronicle the history, and recent and current research being done with amphibians and reptiles that has or will advance the cause of humanity. The overall purpose is to reveal to herpetologists, naturalists, zoologists, and the general reader, that amphibians and reptiles have an amazing amount of benefit to offer human medicine. The inherent value to mankind of animals such as amphibians and reptiles is not only interesting from a scientific point of view to naturalists, but it gives them the ammunition on which to base pleas for conservation, habitat preservation and biodiversity maintenance. As will be pointed out by examples, captive husbandry and breeding is not always the answer either. An example is a genus of small Brazilian frogs which produce potent medical alkaloids currently being researched. Captive born specimens do not have this substance since their diet is altered in captivity. In their native habitat they feed on a specific genus of ant which produces the alkaloid being studied. The index provides a toxicological cross reference to the systematically arranged text. The entries are alphabetical within each genus if there are more than one. The genera are listed alphabetically within each family or subfamily. The reader will be able to cross reference pharmaceutical substances found in herps and also other substances and uses, such as alligators as surgical models.

Coming in 1992!!

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HERPETOCULTURE

by Steve Grenard: Orig. ed. 1992

Krieger Publishing Company
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Prepublication Announcement

A REVISED CHECKLIST WITH DISTRIBUTION MAPS OF THE TURTLES OF THE WORLD

by John B. Iverson

Publication date: April 1992

This is a substantial **revision** of Iverson's 1986 Turtle Checklist. At approximately **370 pages**, it is 33% longer than the earlier version, and is now the most comprehensive guide available to the scientific nomenclature of the turtles of the world. The Checklist includes updated distribution **dot maps** (nearly **270** total) for all species, and information on the **original citations, type specimens, type localities, distribution,** and **pertinent literature** for all recognized **species AND subspecies.** Dichotomous **keys** modified from the scientific literature are also included for identification down to the species level. **Phylogenetic relationships** are also illustrated for most taxa. This edition is currently available only in soft cover. Cost is **$25.00 prepaid** (including surface shipping; foreign airmail shipping is $10.00 extra). All payments must be in U.S. dollars, drawn on U.S. banks, or on an international money order.

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PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO SNAKES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA by **Johan Marais** (Published by Southern Books) will be available in August 1992.

This 240 page publication contains 210 colour photographs, species accounts of the snakes of southern Africa including Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, a section on snakes in captivity complete with a drug chart for veterinarians, first aid measures and a chapter on classification and relationships.

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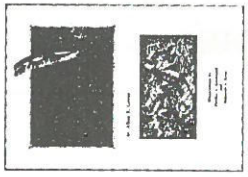
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THE BIOLOGY AND EVOLUTION OF AUSTRALIAN LIZARDS

Whitley Medal 1990 an award of excellence



Allen Greer, *Senior Research Scientist, Australian Museum, New South Wales, Australia*

This book addresses a wide spectrum of herpetologists: professional, tertiary and graduate students in zoology and amateur herpetologists who are inclined to scientific data. In this comprehensive book, Australian lizard biology is reviewed from an evolutionary perspective.

It is a summary of the current knowledge of the biology of Australian lizards (five families with 475 species) organized in phylogenetic context.

The biological topics in the book include, behaviour, ecology, morphology, natural history and physiology. The phylogenetics is based on latest research by both the author and other specialists. Much new and previously unpublished data on both biology and phylogenetics are included.

No other similar work exists in print today.

Contents

Introduction
The Phylogenetic Relationships and Geographical Origins of Australian Lizards
Agamidae — Dragon Lizards
Gekkonidae — Geckos
Pygopodidae — Flap-footed Lizards
Scincidae — Skinks
Varanidae — Goannas
Carnivorous Legless Lizards — Snakes
References
Index

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ISSN 1017 - 6187

RECENT BOOKS ON HUSBANDRY AND CAPTIVE CARE

Part 2

All books reviewed by **BILL BRANCH**

Port Elizabeth Museum, P.O. Box 13147, Humewood, 6013, South Africa

HANDBOOK ON THE MAINTENANCE OF REPTILES IN CAPTIVITY
Kenneth R. G. Welch, 1987. v + 156 pp, R. E. Krieger Publ. Co. (P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, Florida 32901, USA); US $17.50 plus postage, hardcover.

This really is a good opportunity - missed ! Like Welch's (1982) earlier book on the Herpetology of Africa (which, despite the grandiose title, covered only squamates), this offering, with its grossly-misleading title, promises more than it delivers. The first section is an extended essay on the 'Maintenance of Reptiles in Captivity' by Welch. It is a reasonable summary of the topic, but by no means an in-depth review and numerous subjects are superficially skipped over or ignored completely. For instance, nowhere is there any discussion of temperature-dependent sex determination (TSD), a topic of fundamental importance to any crocodile farmer or reptile keeper. After this follows a series of seven 'supplementary notes' on captive care, and another 11 'specific notes on a variety of reptile species'. This pot purri of husbandry items, written by various friends and colleagues of Welch, comprises 45 pages (ie. less than 2.5 pages per note). Their quality ranges from reasonable to exceptionally poor. As an example of the latter, the article by D. Wright on 'European species of the genus *Vipera* (*V. ammodytes, V. aspis, V. berus*)' is only 12 lines long, a quarter of which is the following: "*Vipera ammodytes* : This species is well suited for laboratory work as it will thrive in a very small vivarium. It requires a high temperature, at which it usually feeds well. As a species, it is not as sensitive as *V. berus*." There it is, everything you ever wanted to know about *V. ammodytes*. At least I hope it is, because that's all you get!

The majority of the book is given over to a bibliography of 46 pages (approximately 1100 references) that includes articles covering various aspects of reptile husbandry or ecology. It is preceeded by a 17 page species reference list and together they are the most useful part of the book. But even this section is not comprehensive and numerous articles are missing. One of the most serious omissions is that of Frank Slaven's 'Inventory of live reptiles and amphibians in captivity.' (see below).

Three appendices follow. The first, on Venomous colubrids, is again both incomplete and somewhat pointless. It purports to be a "list of snakes known or believed to be capable of causing varying degrees of envenomation in man.", but there are glaring ommisions. Although four species of *Atractaspis* - are listed, *A. bibronii* is omitted, even though there are more documented cases of envenomation by this species than any other species in the genus (indeed Welch even lists a paper by Corkhill *et al*, 1959, in which a number of bites by the southern burrowing asp are listed). Case histories from bites by other burrowing asps also exist (eg. A. aterrima , Spawls 1982) and yet are overlooked, as is a case of serious envenomation from Rhabdophis subminiatus (Mather *et al.*, 1978). Welch (1982) follows Broadley's revision of *Thelotornis*, and he should therefore be aware that early bites by *T. kirtlandi capensis* must have their taxonomy updated. The poor old skaapstekers (*Psammophylax* spp.) continue to bear the stigma of F. W. FitzSimons' early and unscientific experiments (1919), even though no serious symptoms from their bites have ever been published. More seriously, however, no Psammophis species are listed even though potentially dangerous symptoms have been recorded from a number of species (eg. *P. biseriatus*, Spawls, 1979; *P. sibilans*, FitzSimons, 1962). Similarly, the serious case histories of *Malpolon* bites have been overlooked (Gonzales, 1979).

If this list is to be of any sort of use, some form of analysis or conclusions are necessary. However, no indication of the severity or possible treatment of bites by the different species are listed, and it is all really useless. In theory it could be of some use in warning snake keepers of related, and thus potentially, dangerous species. However, the species are listed alphabetically, thus completely obscuring their systematic relationships.

The remaining appendices include a five page table of 'Incubation of reptile eggs: temperature and length of incubation in days', and a 10 page list of herpetological societies. The latter adds little to the regular up-dated list of regional herpetological societies published in the *Herpetological Review*. The former is just too superficial. It lists no incubation periods for crocodilian eggs, those for only three tortoise species, and completely ignores TSD. Incubation times for only four pythons are given, even though Ross' (1978) review is listed in the bibliography and includes data on an additional 12 species.

Overall, the book is poorly proofed (eg. "annimals", p. 3) and poorly edited (eg. van Woerkom's sentence (p. 48) "The snakes of this genus feel different in the hand; for example, *Gonglyophis conicus* feels very hard and stiff, whilst *Eryx johnii johnii* feels like soft rubber."). Perhaps my lasting impression of the book is its superficiality, and it is probably best ignored.

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INVENTORY, LONGEVITY, AND BREEDING NOTES. REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN CAPTIVITY

Frank L. Slavens, 1988. 402 pp., privately printed (available from the author: P.O. Box 30744, Seattle, Washington 98103, USA) US-$32.50 hardcover, US $25.00 softcover, overseas postage U$3.50.

This annual reference work has been privately published since 1980 and is delightfully illustrated with whimsical herps by Gary Larsen of Far Side fame. It has become the 'bible' for reptile keepers. It contains a wealth of information. The latest issue gives details on 54 180 specimens housed in 400 collections (148 public, 252 private) from 33 countries. It includes location, sex and longevity notes for individual specimens. Breeding information varies from a simple note to a paragraph or two on the care and breeding of a species. Names, addresses and phone numbers of all collections are listed at the end of the book. For Frank Slavens these inventories are a labour of love; for serious reptile keepers, particularly those interested in breeding, they are a must.

EXOTIC PETS
Arthur Rosenfeld, 1987. 296p, Simon and Schuster, Inc., New York (Rockefeller Center, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NEW YORK 10020, USA), US $21.95 plus postage, hardcover.

This well-written, humerous book is a personal view of pets and the author's experiences with them. As he was first 'hooked' by a turtle it has a strong herpetological flavour, but it also includes sections on parrots and tropical fish. The style is refreshing, as in this example when the author relates an embarrasing episode when he was bitten by a Tokay gecko during a public lecture: "Redder of face and far redder of finger, I tried to instill some sense of propriety into the beast." This whimsical tone is enhanced by a delightful misprint that occurs in the discussion of colour phases in the California king snake; which may "...come into the world with either stripes or hands"!

Each section (snakes, lizards, turtles, parrots, etc.) starts with discussions on general biology of the group, and their housing, feeding, handling and acquisition. Then follows summaries of 'recommended' species, based on the author's personal experience. Most are well-known species, and the accounts are flavoured with anecdotes as well as numerous examples of good old-fashioned common sense, eg. "Prepare the cage THEN purchase the beast . This is a rule I cannot state too often." (p. 235). Under housing lizards he notes that "The word vivarium implies a place for the lizard to really live, not just exist.", although he did have a blue-tongued skink that "..liked life Zen-bare and simple".

Despite my enjoyment of this book, I have a major objection. It is the author's relaxed attitude to conservation and legislation. Under "Acquiring a Turtle" he pleads for the reader to "Research things a bit" and "Go through a guide briefly before you go out", so as to avoid having to "..toss it out of the back door when it turns out not to be the kind you want." Nowhere is there any word of caution to check legislation or awareness of the plight of endangered species. The simple morality and attendant responsibilities of keeping wild animals are ignored. It is the attitude of the post-war years, when the western perception was of unlimited natural resources to fuel growth and productivity. Those days are gone. Keeping pets and zoological specimens is still valid, but not at the expense of wild populations.

A-Z OF SNAKE-KEEPING
Chris Mattison, 1991. 143 pp, Merehurst, London (local distributors THR, P.O. Box 6836, Roggebaai 8012). R37.95 (+ VAT) (20% discount to HAA members), hardcover.

Another book with a misleading title! The true scope of the book is exemplified by the photography. All of Mattison's recent books have been very well-illustrated, and this one is no exception. However, Chris obviously knows where his market lies, and the photographs are heavily biased towards the popular, particularly American, snakes. Of 131 photographs in the book, 31 are of kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis* spp.), 19 of rat snakes (*Elaphe* spp.), 26 of pythons or boas, and 26 of other American snakes. There are a number of shots (22) of cages and husbandry techniques, but only seven shots of snakes

from other regions. For Africa, these include a poor shot of a brown house snake (*Lamprophis fuliginosus*) and a better shot of the bush viper *Atheris hispidus*. A half-column discussion of house snakes (*Lamprophis*), and brief accounts of the royal python (*P.* regius) and African rock python (*P. sebae*), completes the African coverage of the book. Europe, Asia and Australia fare little better.

The text, which is laid out in dictionary format, discusses topics from albinos to water snakes, but there is no discussion of *Xenocalamus* (the quill-snouted snakes), yamakagashi (the venomous Japanese natricine *Rhabdophis tigrinus*) or *Zaocys* (an Asian colubrid snake). My comment is rather tongue-in-cheek, as none of these snakes could be considered popular or well-known. However, it does highlight the rather limited coverage of the book. It should rather be called the 'A-W of Snake Keeping'!

There are a few mistakes and deficiencies. In the account of Madagascan boas, *Acrantophis dumerilii* (sic + *dumerili*) is reported to have 2-6 large young (up to 70 cm). Reproduction has been confused with that of the larger species *A. madagascariensis*; *A. dumerili* , in fact, has larger litters (3-13) but smaller babies (44-53 cm). The lack of a bibliography means that it is difficult to chase up further details on interesting topics. One example is the comment that care should be taken when feeding water snakes to use only fish of "..a type which does not contain the enzyme thiaminase, which will destroy the thiamine (Vitamin B1) in the snake's body, leading to loss of muscle control and, eventually, death." The reader is then left with the obvious question "What types of fish contain thiaminase and should therefore be avoided ?" Unfortunately this is not given, and there is no reference for the interested reader to chase up the details.

Despite my few negative comments, however, and with the proviso that the book is very much aimed at the American market, I would still recommend it to anyone interested in the husbandry of snakes. In addition, the book has been offerred at an exceptionally cheap local price, and it is worth the money simply for the colour photographs.

KEEPING AND BREEDING TORTOISES IN CAPTIVITY
A. C. Highfield, 1990. vi + 149p, 3 col. pls. + num. b/w illustrations. R & A Publishing Ltd (3 Highfield Villas, Newlands Hill, Portishead, Avon, England BS20 9AU), UK pound 10.95, soft-cover.

Despite their popularity, there are very few books designed specifically to aid the captive care of tortoises. Now, when stricter legislation has drastically curtailed the exploitative trade in tortoises as pets in western Europe, there comes a book that should drastically improve the lot of the captive tortoise. What a pity it wasn't available earlier, when hundreds of thousands of tortoises died each year in Europe. It should be compulsory reading for anyone owning a tortoise.

For an African audience, unfortunately, the book is a bit disappointing. It is very surprising that so little mention is made of southern African species. The genera *Chersina* and *Psammobates* are mentioned only as one-line inclusions in a table on egg clutch size and frequency, whilst *Homopus* is ignored completely. Perhaps this is an indirect compliment to our conservation laws. They seem to have completely prevented

the circulation, and thus knowledge of, southern African tortoises in western Europe or North America!

The author lists Boycott and Bourquin's excellent review of our local tortoises in the discussion on *Kinixys* , and also lists it in the bibliography to *Geochelone* . However, he inexplicably ignores it under other headings, such as *Kinixys* or "Miscellaneous", and does not draw on its contents to discuss, even in passing, the existence of over 25% of the world's land tortoises! Nonetheless, the care of some African species, eg. the leopard tortoise (*Geochelone pardalis*), hingeback tortoise (*Kinixys* sp.), and the pancake tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*) is given in more detail.

Some of the author's taxonomic decisions, especially with respect to Mediterranean *Testudo*, may be queried. I'm not sure how many researchers would support the description of *Testudo flavominimaralis* or *Furculachelys whitei* and *F. nabeulensis* (all described in 'in house' publications of the Tortoise Trust). But then taxonomy is often a personal preference, and its choice is an author's prerogative (one of the advantages of writing your own books!).

The book is very well proofed, with a nice layout, attractive font selection, and excellent printing. One difficulty appears to be Highfield's personal use of grammar. He may be a 'splitter' taxonomically, but he is an ultra-conservative where commas are concerned ! They are almost extinct in this book, which often makes reading long sentences confusing! There are few typographical mistakes. Examples include a capitalized specific name (*Carbonaria*, p. 78), and use of italics for a higher taxonomic category (*Chenopodiacea*). One interesting typo is "... differences in the race (= rate) of embryonic development..." (p. 26). However, given the context of the section, which discusses differential incubation times within the same clutch of eggs, this has become almost an improvement; it is certainly a more picturesque phrase!

Despite the regional neglect, the book is still very worthwhile. The text on tortoise husbandry is very comprehensive and draws heavily on Highfield's long experience with the Tortoise Trust and Tortoise Survival Project. The early husbandry chapters (eg. Eggs and Incubation, Designing and constructing an incubator, Hatching and the Juvenile terrarium, Diet and nutritional disorders, and Parasitic and bacterial diseases) are particularly useful. A useful appendix lists nutritional values for dietary constituents and additives. All-in-all, a very nice book. Pity the exchange rate makes it relatively expensive.



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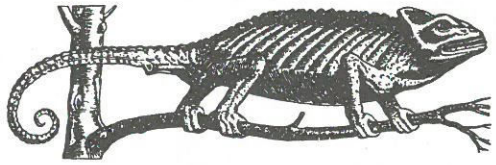
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REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS

HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

We have examined the annual financial statements set out on pages 2 and 3. Other than as explained in the following paragraph, our examination included such audit procedures as we considered necessary.

In common with similar organisations, it is not feasible for the association to institute accounting controls over collections from subscriptions and fund-raising projects prior to the initial entry of collection in the accounting records. Accordingly, it was impracticable for us to extend or examination beyond the receipts actually recorded.

Subject to the effect of any adjustment which may have been necessary had it been possible for us to extend our examination of receipts, in our opinion, the Financial Statements fairly present the financial position of the organisation at 29 February 1992 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Selvan Pillay

SELVAN PILLAY
Chartered Accountants (S.A.)
INCORPORATING D'ABBADIE & PARTNERS

DURBAN
7 May 1992

HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

BALANCE SHEET

29 FEBRUARY 1992

	1992 R	1991 R
FUNDS EMPLOYED		
Balance at beginning of year	25 230	20 170
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(10 019)	5 060
	15 211	25 230
EMPLOYMENT OF FUNDS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
UBS - Bloemfontein	244	8 258
UBS - Durban	4 215	-
Standard Bank - Bloemfontein	10 709	13 694
Nedbank - Bloemfontein	-	3 148
Cash on hand	43	130
	15 211	25 230

HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 1992

	1992 R		1991 R	
INCOME		23 608		11 847
Interest	2 389		3 654	
Sales	131		386	
Subscriptions	8 428		7 807	
Symposium	12 660		-	
EXPENSES		33 627		6 787
Audit fees	300		250	
Symposium	11 809		330	
Journals	17 603		3 671	
Newsletters	3 001		1 774	
Postage, photocopies and telephone	914		484	
Stationery and office supplies	-		278	
NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		(10 019)		5 060

The annual financial statements set out on pages 1 to 3 were approved on 7 May 1992 and are hereby signed to that effect.

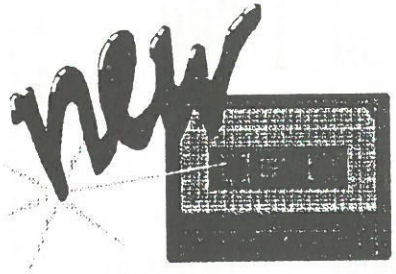
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